

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, under the title "Wrist Rest Assembly", insert the following new paragraph:

This application is a division of Serial No. 09/494,665, filed January 31, 2000, now pending, which is a continuation of Serial No. 09/016,996, filed February 2, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,494,418, issued December 17, 2002, which is a continuation of Serial No. 08/597,323, filed February 6, 1996, now U.S. Patent No. 5,713,544, issued February 3, 1998, which is a continuation of Serial No. 08/253,510, filed June 3, 1994, now abandoned.

Replace the paragraph starting on page 2, line 22 and extending to page 3, line 9, with the following amended paragraphs:

Preferably the gel is a stable elastomeric block polymer similar to the gel described in U.S. Patent No. 3,676,387, (~~the content whereof is hereby incorporated herein by reference~~) and preferably where the gels are polymer-oil combinations. These polymers are the A-B-A configurations wherein each block A is a glassy or resinous non-elastomeric thermoplastic polymer block with a glass transition temperature above room temperature, i.e., 25°C, having an average molecular weight of between about 2,000 and 100,000 and which is relatively incompatible with the elastomeric polymer block B. B is an elastomeric polymer block of a conjugated diene, the average molecular weight being between about 15,000 and 1,000,000 (preferably 15,000 to 250,000) and having a glass transition temperature considerably below that of blocks A. This difference in glass transition temperatures may be as small as 15°C, but it is preferably at least 100°C and more preferably at least about 125°C. The end blocks A of the block copolymer should constitute approximately 10 to 50 percent of the total polymer weight. Such block polymers and a method for their formation, are described in U.S. Pat. No. 3,265,765 (Holden et al.) issued August 9, 1966, and, in general, these are quite suitable in the practice of the present invention.

Elastomeric block polymers of the type useful in the practice of this invention have been combined with oils to make oil extended rubbers and adhesives. In the formation of adhesives, the amount of oil is generally greater than in oil extended rubbers. The formation of adhesive

compositions containing such block polymer tackifying resin and oil is described in U.S. Pat. No. 3,239,478 (Harlan, Jr.) issued Mar. 8, 1966. However, in none of the rubbers or adhesives just described does the amount of oil (compatible plasticizing oil) used constitute ordinarily even as much as 67 percent of the total composition, in as much as extension beyond this point will result in an adhesive with little or no cohesive strength. Further the oils recommended in Harlan are at least partially aromatic and such aromaticity results in a soft flowable material where larger percentages of oil are used for the plasticizing effect. The use of a compatible oil is nonacceptable for purposes of the non-acceptable invention.

When an elastomeric block copolymer of the kind noted herein is combined with a non-aromatic paraffinic oil of low volatility with a flash point above about 350°F and below about 500°F, wherein the oil constitutes at least about 70 percent of the total weight of the block polymer-oil elastoplastic mixture, an extremely highly elastic material is obtained which is not only useful as such but which is capable of being melted upon heating for casting in the formation of molded and other articles at room temperatures. Stable elastoplastic materials can be formed where the oil constitutes as much as 95 percent of the combined weight of the oil and elastomeric block polymer. When the amount of the oil is less than about 70 percent the melt viscosity becomes excessive for convenient casting from a hot melt system. When the amount of the oil is greater than about 95 percent, a thixotropic liquid results.

Paraffinic oils, which are normally considered incompatible with block polymers or other rubbers, and thus, not considered extender oils, are somewhat compatible with block copolymers at elevated temperatures (i.e., about 300°F) to the extent that the oil and the block copolymer form a mixture which when cooled, exhibits a novel structure which is neither gel nor extended polymer, but is rather a continuous web of one-dimensional polymer strands intermingled with a continuous phase of non-compatible oil. Microscopic examination of the oil polymer mixture reveals a sponge-like construction having voids therein filled with oil. The oil may be removed by mechanical means such as pressing, filtering, etc.

The oil used must be incompatible (non-solvent) with the non-elastomeric, thermoplastic polymer block A, should be of low volatility and should have a boiling point in excess of the melting temperature of the polymer-oil combination. For this purpose, ordinary paraffin-based

petroleum oils such as mineral oil, petrolatum and other paraffin liquid petroleum products within the viscosity range of products commonly called oils are suitable in the practice of this invention.

Preferably, the gel is the gel described in Example No. II [[3]] of British Patent No. GB 1,268,431 (which states "A mixture of 5 parts "Nujol" (Registered Trade Mark) brand U.S.P. mineral oil and one part styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymer ("Kraton 107") was heated to approximately 149°C and agitated vigorously until the polymer appeared visually dissolved. Empty pint bottles were dipped into this hot sol so that a layer approximately 1.59 mm thick was deposited on the bottom rim. These bottles could be filled with water and dropped repeatedly onto concrete floor or steel plates without breakage.") (the content whereof is hereby incorporated by reference) except that the ratio of oil to block copolymer is in the range of 4 to 1 to 10 to 1 rather than being 5 to 1 as is described in that Example No. II [[3]]. That gel is quite similar to the gel in the pad commercially available from Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company, St. Paul, Minnesota, under the trade designation "RESTON Reston (T.M.) Flotation Pad", which pad for many years has been used in beds, wheel chairs and the like to prevent pressure points. Also, preferably the gel has a covering comprising an elongate tubular layer of flexible polymeric material (e.g., polyurethane) around the gel, which tubular layer has sealed ends to retain the gel and provides a flexible barrier to the escape of mineral oil from within the gel. The pad assembly can further include an outer layer over the top surface of the pad of a soft conformable material adapted for comfortable contact with a user's users wrists.

Replace the paragraph starting on page 5, line 15, and extending to page 6, line 19, with the following amended paragraph:

Generally, the wrist rest assembly 10 comprises (1) an elongate base 14 having an elongate upper pad support surface 15 (see Figure 6), which base 14 has a bottom supported surface 16 generally parallel to its upper pad support surface 15 adapted to be supported on a horizontal surface along the front edge of the device 11 or 12; and (2) an elongate pad 17 comprising a covering 18 and a layer of gel 19 within the covering 18. The pad 17, which is shown separated from the base 14 in Figure 1, has opposite top and bottom surfaces 20 and 21, opposite longitudinally extending edges 22, and opposite ends 24. The bottom surface 21 of the elongate pad 17 is

supported on and can be adhered to the upper pad support surface 15 of the base 14, and the pad 17 has a sufficient thickness between its top and bottom surfaces 20 and 21 and sufficient width between its edges 22 to afford supporting a users wrists along its top surface 20 with a portion of the layer of gel 19 beneath and conforming to the supported wrists and affording significant motion of the top surface 20 of the pad with the supported wrists relative to its bottom surface 21 in a plane generally parallel to the upper surface 15 of the base 14. As an example, when the gel 19 is that gel described in Example No. II [[3]] in British Patent No. GB 1,268,431 except that the ratio of oil to block copolymer is 6 to 1 rather than being 5 to 1 as is described in that Example No. 3; the layer of that gel 19 has a thickness of about 3/8 inch and a width between the edges of the pad 17 of about 2.9 inches; and the covering 18 is of 0.002 inch thick polyurethane; that motion of the top surface 20 of the pad with a supported wrist relative to its bottom surface 21 in a plane generally parallel to the supported surface 16 of the base 14 allows the supported wrist and the users hand to move in any direction in a generally circular area having a diameter of about one inch. The area of such movement could be made larger or smaller by using different gel compositions, but for most embodiments of the wrist rest should be a circular area having a diameter of at least ½ inch.